Export of Cotton

†2528. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) quantity of cotton exported during the year 2002-03;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the cotton export policy and to lift the restrictions imposed on its export;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the targets fixed for export of cotton during the year 2003-04 and the steps taken to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Export of raw cotton (including waste) during the year 2002-03 (April-March) was 10.804 ton.

(b) and (c) At present export of cotton is free and without any restrictions.

(d) No target is fixed for export of cotton during 2002-04 and the market forces will decide the quantum of export. Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton to enhance its market value.

Mulberry and Sericulture for SCs and Women

†2529. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mulberry and sericulture works are proposed for the Scheduled Castes and for women for their economic development; and

(b) if so, the names of new areas in addition to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir where this scheme is proposed to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) All categotries of beneficiaries majority of whom are SCs, STs and women are engaged in sericulture.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Central assistance under centrally sponsored Catalytic Development Programme for development of sericulture is available to all traditional and non-traditional States. The procedure and guidelines require interested States to send proposals to the Central Silk Board. Proposals that meet the guidelines are given due sanction to all States.

Textile Exports

2530. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of textile exports during the last three years alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) whether there is any proposal with Government to accelerate growth of exports during the Tenth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASAN GOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistcs (DGCI&S) data, the value of textile exports during the last three years *i.e.* 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 have been as given below:

(*In US $ Million*)

	2000-01 (April-March)	2001-02 (April-March)	2002-03 (April-March)
Textile Exports	5087.0	4618.7	5031.5

(b) and (c) Government have been taking a number of measures to boost the textile exports and to accelerate the positive trend of export growth during the Tenth Plan period. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation